

MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
VIRTUAL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M.

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Ashley Brady

Councilman Joseph Frazier

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis

Councilman Ronald Atkinson

Councilman Ralph Atkinson

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt

Councilman Michael Baker

STAFF PRESENT:

Alan Ammons, City Administrator

Ainsley Sanders, City Clerk

Patricia Brown, City Treasurer

James Brogdon, City Attorney

** All on conference call**

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – MAYOR ASHLEY BRADY

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Ashley Brady.

2. PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ashley Brady forgo the pledge and did the prayer.

3. WELCOME CITIZENS, GUESTS & PRESS – MAYOR ASHLEY BRADY

Mayor Ashley Brady welcomed all guest.

4. APPROVE MINUTES –

- Regular Meeting December 8, 2020

A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Frazier, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to approve the minutes for the Regular meeting and Special meeting. The motion carried.

5. **DECEMBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – MAYOR ASHLEY BRADY**

Mayor Ashley Brady stated that the employee of the month is fairly new to the City of Marion but he has been a hard worker since he started and is at the Marion Police Department. Donald Curry is our employee of the month and new code enforcement officer. As everybody knows Dennis Brown retired and Donald took over and is doing a fantastic job. He is very dedicated employee. As his report reflects and we want to recognize him for all that hard work that he does. If you see him tell him congratulations and we will give him his gift card (token) of appreciation.

6. **1ST READING ON STATE WIDE STANDARDIZED BUSINESS LICENSE APPLICATION**

Mayor Ashley Brady stated that the first reading on the State wide business license application. As we have talked about in previous meetings the state has mandated that we go to a uniform revenue schedule. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier.*** The motion carried.

7. **2ND READING ORDINANCE 20-13 BUSINESS LICENSE ORDINANCE –
STANDARDIZATION: NEW LAW, NEW ACTION**

Mayor Ashley Brady stated that the second reading on the Ordinance 20-13 Business License Ordinance Standardization: New Law, New Action, revenue mandate by the State. ***A motion was made by Councilwoman Tassie Lewis, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to approve the second reading on Ordinance 20-13.*** The motion carried.

8. **EMPLOYEE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE – 3 YEAR TERM**

- Jonathan Brantley (Police Dept.) – Appointed January 2021 for term ending January 2024
- Poette Lewis (Public Works Dept.) - Reappointed January 2021 for term ending January 2024
- Richard Moody (Recreation Dept.) - Reappointed January 2021 for term ending January 2024
- Randy Brown (Maintenance) - Reappointed January 2021 for term ending January 2024
- Marilyn Rogers (Police Dept.) - Reappointed January 2021 for term ending January 2024
- Christian Tisdale (Fire Dept.) – Appointed January 2021 for term ending January 2024

Mayor Ashley Brady stated that our Employee Grievance Committee is a three year term and we need to reappoint and appoint some new members. The new members would be Jonathan Brantley - Police Department, reappoint Poette Lewis - Public Works, reappoint Mr. Richard Moody – Recreation Department, reappoint Randy Brown – Public Works, reappoint Marilyn Rogers – Police Department, and Appoint Christian Tisdale - Fire Department. We had two employee's to retire Jackie Yates and Glenn Bridgers. ***A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier.*** The motion carried.

9. **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

- **Capital Waste Systems**

Mr. Ammons stated that he just have a few things to bring to Mayor and Councils attention. The trash/garbage transition (Capital Waste) are in town and has taken over they got about 98% of the roll out carts delivered. All of the dumpsters have been delivered. More carts will be delivered this week. We do have about a hundred that have to make some adjustments that were not the correct addresses and things like that. Some residents still have some old cans and they can use the old cans until Capital Waste has been delivered. We have collected AWS and have those stock piles at this time. That kind of brings us up to date on the trash transition. We probably have another couple of weeks before everything is worked completely out and all of our back door service. We are getting a few complaints, but they are learning the system. They had to kind of come in, in December and kind of help us a little bit to help us get by along with our crews. In a couple of weeks everything should be functioning like it should.

- **Covid-19 – City Operations**

Mr. Ammons stated with the virus and we all know how deadly this has become in our small part of the world here we seeing our neighbors and people dying. The numbers are extremely high the last three weeks in Marion County. So with our City operations we do not recommend any more openings. The recreation department is closed with the virus is closed until next week. We will re-access their operation. All of the

employees are doing good. Hope all of them will be able to come back to work next week. We are going to keep the minimum operation next week.

At City Hall we have gone back to limited restricted access. Have to call in and set up an appointment won't just be able to walk in. As well as all of our safety precautions there are several departments that have limited access to certain rooms where only one or two people can go in at a time. We have all of our safety precautions in place.

We do have employees at the Police department and Fire department receiving the vaccination and we will try to keep everybody informed on that. We do some more information about the 70 and older. Have got that information out to the Council members.

10. CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

Mayor stated that we must have lost him and that he would circle back around.

11. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Mayor Ashley Brady: Mayor stated that he has a few things to update. Had a zoom meeting with Bishop Blue and Adam Works concerning the Martin Luther King program it's going to be next Monday January 18, 2021, and the program is in the past we have gathered at the Methodist Church parking lot and walked down South Main Street to Door of Hope and had the program. Due to covid what we are going to do this year it's going to be at the Methodist Church parking lot at 8:30 in the cars. We will do temperature checks there. We will have a procession that will lead, and then at 10:00 meet in the parking lot. That's the plan. We also have it on our Facebook page. They are no encouraging people to get out of their cars.

Also included in the packets is a schedule of upcoming coming Council meetings so you can plan. Not that we are going to be going anywhere with covid around.

In previous meetings we had approved the purchase of a second Grapper truck and that truck came in today, and has been in operation. We now have two Grapper trucks

running. Public Works is running that truck, so we will have one on the west side of Main Street and 501 and the East side.

They have started on the tennis courts. Tennis courts were previously damaged by Hurricane Florence flood waters and they have started on the repairs to that Tennis court. It's being paid for by FEMA dollars and it's not cost to the City of Marion.

Going back to the trash. We got thrown a curve ball. AWS walked out on us in December, and so we made arrangements for CWS to come in and start picking up the trash. In the mean time we had close to twenty eight hundred trash cans, and then we had to make arrangements to where do we store them. We were able to work with who was in charge of the fair grounds and managed to stock pile the fair grounds. We will be working on a letter to AWS and Mr. Brogdon for who's going to claim ownership of those cans. The storing of those cans at the fairgrounds is only a temporary basis. We have some that got so wet we could not go back out there because of it being so wet, and we are storing some temporarily at the old Heritage property. Our intentions are to move those to the fairgrounds as well when it dries up some. Our intentions are to dispose those cans legally once we get Mr. Brogdon's lead on how to take care of them. One thing that we are finding is that people will call City Hall and say, hey I had two carts and they took them all and only left me one. What we are finding that yes they had two or three carts but only paying for only one so if they want to get the second or third cart they are more than welcome they are just going to have to pay for them.

They have installed over New Year's Day weekend the new additional billboard. I think it looks great. And of course the gym is closed due to covid.

Typically in February we have the Runfest. That the annual run that we have here in Marion. That event has been canceled along with the HMRA has a Chili Cook Off, and they have canceled their event as well. That whole week has been canceled due to covid.

Councilman Joseph Frazier: Councilman Joseph Frazier made mention that can we put the billboard down in front of the boat plant? Mayor replied we can probably put it in the next budget cycle, and that that was a very good idea.

Councilman Michael Baker: Councilman Michael Baker did not have anything at the time.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson: Councilman Ronald Atkinson wants to know when are we going to turn in the trash truck? Mayor replied that at the end of the month we turn it in. We are still dumping trash from the AWS carts. Councilman wants to know why the swimming pool is not covered? Mayor Ashley Brady stated that he thought it was supposed to be covered. Council Joseph Frazier added that it was supposed to been covered. Mayor Brady stated that we are working on that. The Recreation Department has covid and we are working on it Ronald.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson: Councilman Ralph Atkinson doesn't have anything at the time.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis: Councilwoman Tassie Lewis doesn't have anything at the time.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt: Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt doesn't have anything at the time.

Councilman Joseph Frazier: Councilman Joseph Frazier stated that with all the tragedy in DC and in Marion. He thinks the flag should be flown half-staff. We should do that for our fallen as well, and also for the Law Enforcement at the Capitol. Mayor stated that we have already got them half-staff. We get our alerts from the government to fly them half mask.

Mayor also stated we have had deputies, and we remember the Officers who have lost their lives in Marion County. We will have Police Officers from the City to attend the funeral as well.

12. ADJOURMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to adjourn .

Mayor Ashley Brady

Ainsley Sanders, City Clerk